I.A.A.F. Rule 161 Clause 2
In competitions held under Rule 12.1(a), (b) and (c), the starting blocks shall be linked to an IAAF approved false start apparatus. The Starter and/or an assigned Recaller shall wear headphones in order to clearly hear the acoustic signal emitted when the apparatus detects a false start (i.e. when reaction time is less than 100/1000ths of a second). As soon as the Starter and/or an assigned Recaller hears the acoustic signal, and if the gun is fired, or the approved starting apparatus is activated, there shall be a recall and the Starter shall immediately examine the reaction times on the false start apparatus in order to confirm which athlete(s) is/are responsible for the false start. This system is strongly recommended for all other competitions.

ReacTime components:
- 8 Block Sensor Units Equipped with Internal Rechargeable Batteries
- 8 Block Sensor Clamps For Mounting To Most Models Of IAAF Approved Starting Blocks
- Speaker Modules On Each Block For Starter’s Commands
- False Start Command Center For Operation and Configuration of False Start Detection System
- Starter Headset And Microphone
- Start Detection Sensor and 30m Cable
- Trackside Line Printer For Reaction Times
- ReacTime False Start System Software License
- ReacTime False Start System Power Supply & Charger
- Transport Cases
- Note: Optional Wireless Configuration Available For Operation of Block Sensors And Command Center

ReacTime was the world’s first Championship False Start Detection System that could also be used as a modular Reaction Training System. Unlike some simpler systems, ReacTime has no “contact pads”, and it cannot be tricked.

The system is easy to use and rugged. The battery or AC powered blocks are weatherproof and are designed to withstand the tough demands of a track environment.

When used as a stand-alone personal training system to help sprinters improve their starting technique, an individual ReacTime module can be used to record and display an athlete’s gun-to-motion times to an accuracy of 1/1000th of a second.

The Competition ReacTime system detects false starts (as defined by IAAF rule 162.10 and USATF rule 60.18) - also to an accuracy of 1/1000th of a second-and instantly signals this information to the starter.

ReacTime measures reaction times to 1/1000th of a second.
ReacTime detection mechanism clips to virtually every manufacturer’s starting blocks.
ReacTime control center for the starter is lightweight and portable.
ReacTime battery operated and rechargeable, or AC powered.
ReacTime all athletes hear the starter’s commands or the sound of the gun simultaneously.
ReacTime includes all required cables as well as headsets for the starter and recall starter.
ReacTime 100% integration with the FinishLynx timing system, including the ability to store the reaction time of the athletes in the FinishLynx results area and print with results.
ReacTime optional wireless adapters eliminate the need to lay out cables to each of the starting blocks.
ReacTime software for Windows allows the power waveforms for all the athletes in a race to be graphed, compared, saved, and printed – trackside.
ReacTime paper tape printer automatically prints reaction times of the athletes trackside after each race.
1 August 2001: 43rd IAAF Congress,
Edmonton, Canada

IAAF Member Federations approved the following proposal:

To allow only one false start per race in events up to and including the 400m. Any athlete subsequently false starting will be disqualified immediately.

It was also agreed that this rule would not be introduced until 1 January 2003, to allow for a significant period of adaptation by competitors.

12 August 2009: 47th IAAF Congress,
Berlin, Germany

IAAF Member Federations approved the following proposal:

Except in Combined Events, any athlete responsible for a False Start shall be disqualified.

In Combined Events only one false start per race shall be allowed without disqualification of the athlete(s) responsible for the false start. Any athlete(s) making further false starts in the race shall be disqualified from the race.

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8 Lane Wired ReacTime

* Notebook computer, starting pistol, and starting blocks not included